

MAY

- I had some repute for profe;
And, till they drove me out of date,
Could *maul* a minister of state. *Swift's Miscel.*
But fate with butchers plac'd thy priestly stall,
Meek modern faith to murder, hack and *maul*. *Pope.*
MAUL. *n. f.* [*mauleus*, Latin.] A heavy hammer.
A man that beareth false witness is a *maul*, a sword, and
sharp arrow. *Prov. xxv. 18.*
MAUND. *n. f.* [*manb*, Saxon; *mande*, Fr.] A hand-basket.
To **MA'UNDER.** *v. n.* [*maudire*, French.] To grumble; to
murmur.
He made me many visits, *maundring* as if I had done him
a discourtesy in leaving such an opening. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
MA'UNDERER. *n. f.* [from *maunder*.] A murmurer; a grum-
bler.
MAUNDY-THURSDAY. *n. f.* [derived by *Spelman* from *mande*,
a hand-basket, in which the king was accustomed to give
alms to the poor.] The Thursday before Good-friday.
MAUSOLEUM. *n. f.* [Latin; *mausoleus*, French.] A name
which was first given to a stately monument erected by his
queen Artimisia to her husband Mausolus, king of Caria.
A pompous funeral monument.
MAW. *n. f.* [*maga*, Saxon; *mazge*, Dutch.]
1. The stomach of animals, and of human beings, in con-
tempt.
So oft in feasts with costly changes clad,
To crammed *maus* a sprat new stomach brings. *Sidney.*
We have heats of dungs, and of bellies and *maus* of living
creatures, and of their bloods. *Bacon.*
Though plenteous, all too little seems,
To stuff this *mau*, this vast unhidebound corps. *Milten.*
The serpent, who his *mau* obscene had fill'd,
The branches in his curl'd embraces held. *Dryden.*
2. The craw of birds.
Granivorous birds have the mechanism of a mill; their
mau is the hopper which holds and softens the grain, letting
it down by degrees into the stomach, where it is ground by
two strong muscles; in which action they are assisted by small
stones, which they swallow for the purpose. *Arbutnot.*
MA'WKISH. *adj.* [perhaps from *mau*.] Apt to give satiety;
apt to cause loathing.
Flow, Wellfed! flow, like thine inspirer beer,
So sweetly *mauwish*, and so smoothly dull. *Pope.*
MA'WKISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *mauwish*.] Aptness to cause loath-
ing.
MA'WMET. *n. f.* [or *mammot*, from *mam* or *mother*.] A pup-
pet, anciently an idol.
MA'WMISH. *adj.* [from *mauwm* or *mauwmnet*.] Foolish; idle;
nauseous.
It is one of the most nauseous, *mauwish* mortifications,
for a man of sense to have to do with a punctual, finical top.
L'Estrange.
MAW-WORM. *n. f.* [*mau* and *worm*.]
Ordinary gut-worms loosen, and slide off from, the intern
twink of the guts, and frequently creep into the stomach for
nourishment, being attracted thither by the sweet chyle; whence
they are called stomach or *mau-worms*. *Harvey on Conf.*
MA'XILLAR. *adj.* [*maxillaris*, Latin.] Belonging to the
jaw-bone.
The greatest quantity of hard substance continued is to-
wards the head; there is the skull, the teeth, and the *maxil-*
lary bones. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. No. 74.*
MA'XIM. *n. f.* [*maxime*, French; *maximum*, Lat.] An axiom;
a general principle; a leading truth.
This *maxim* out of love I teach. *Shakespeare.*
It is a *maxim* in state, that all countries of new acquist,
till settled, are rather matters of burden than of strength.
Bacon's War with Spain.
Yet, as in duty bound, they serve him on;
Nor ease, nor wealth, nor life itself regard,
For 'tis their *maxim*, love is love's reward. *Dryden.*
That the temper, the sentiments, the morality of men,
is influenced by the example and disposition of those they con-
verse with, is a reflexion which has long since passed into
proverbs, and been ranked among the standing *maxims* of hu-
man wisdom. *Roger's Sermons.*
MAY. auxiliary verb, preterite *might*. [*magan*, Saxon; *mighen*,
Dutch.]
1. To be at liberty; to be permitted; to be allowed; as, you
may do for me [per me licet] all you can.
He that is sent out to travel with the thoughts of a man,
designing to improve himself, *may* get into the conversation
of persons of condition. *Locke on Education.*
2. To be possible; with the words *may be*.
Be the workmen what they *may be*, let us speak of the
work. *Bacon's Essays.*
3. To be by chance.
It *may be*, I shall otherwise bethink me. *Shakespeare.*
How old *may* Phillis be, you ask,
Whose beauty thus all hearts engages?
To answer is no easy task,
For she has really two ages. *River.*

MAY

4. To have power.
This also tendeth to no more but what the king *may* do;
for what he *may* do is of two kinds; what he *may* do as just,
and what he *may* do as possible.
Make the most of life you *may*. *Bacon.*
5. A word expressing desire.
May you live happily and long for the service of your coun-
try. *Dryden's Dedicat. to the Acad.*
MAY-be. Perhaps.
May-be, that better reason will assuage
The rash revenger's heart, words well dispos'd
Have secret pow'r to appease inflamed rage. *Fairy Queen.*
May-be, the am'rous count solicits her
In the unlawful purpose. *Shakespeare. All's well that ends well.*
'Tis nothing yet, yet all thou hast to give;
Then add those *may-be* years thou hast to live. *Dryden.*
What they offer is bare *may-be* and shift, and scarce ever
amounts to a tolerable reason.
MAY. *n. f.* [*Mains*, Latin.] The fifth month of the year; the
confine of Spring and Summer; the early or gay part of life.
On a day, alack the day!
Love, whose month is ever *May*,
Spied a blossom passing fair,
Playing in the wanton air. *Shakespeare. Love's Labour's Lost.*
Maidens are *May* when they are maids,
But the sky changes when they are wives. *Shakespeare.*
Is in the very *May*-morn of his youth,
Ripe for exploits. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
I'll prove it on his body, if he dare;
Despight his nice fence, and his adive practice,
His *May* of youth, and bloom of lusthood. *Shakespeare.*
May must be drawn with a sweet and amiable counte-
nance, clad in a robe of white and green, embroidered with
daisies, hawthorns, and blue-bottles. *Peacham.*
Hail! bounteous *May*, that dost inspire
Mirth and youth, and warm desire;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing,
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing. *Milten.*
To **MAY.** *v. n.* [from the noun.] To gather flowers on *May*
morning.
When merry *May* first early calls the morn,
With merry maids a *may*ing they do go. *Sidney.*
Cupid with Aurora playing,
As he met her once a *may*ing. *Milten.*
MAY-BUG. *n. f.* [*May* and *bug*.] A chaffer.
MAY-DAY. *n. f.* [*May* and *day*.] The first of *May*.
'Tis as much impossible,
Unless we sweep them from the door with cannons,
To scatter 'em, as 'tis to make 'em sleep
On *May-day* morning. *Shakespeare.*
MAY-FLOWER. *n. f.* [*May* and *flower*.] A plant.
The plague, they report, hath a scent of the *May-flower*.
Bacon's Nat. Hist.
MAY-FLY. *n. f.* [*May* and *fly*.] An insect.
He loves the *May-fly*, which is bred of the cod-worm or
caddis. *Walton's Angler.*
MAY-GAME. *n. f.* [*May* and *game*.] Diversion; sport, such
as are used on the first of *May*.
The king this while, though he seem'd to account of the
deftigns of Perkin but as a *May-game*, yet had given order
for the watching of beacons upon the coasts. *Bacon.*
Like early lovers, whose unpractis'd hearts
Were long the *May-game* of malicious arts,
When once they find their jealousies were vain,
With double heat renew their fires again. *Dryden.*
MAY-LILY. *n. f.* The same with *lily* of the valley.
MAY-POLE. *n. f.* [*May* and *pole*.] Pole to be danced round in
May.
Amid the area wide she took her stand,
Where the tall *May-pole* once o'er-look'd the strand. *Pope.*
MAY-WEED. *n. f.* [*May* and *weed*.] A species of chamomile,
called also stinking chamomile, which grows wild. *Miller.*
The *May-weed* doth burne, and the thistle doth treat,
The fitches pul downward both rie and the wheat. *Tusser.*
MAYOR. *n. f.* [*major*, Lat.] The chief magistrate of a cor-
poration, who, in London and York, is called *Lord Mayor*.
My Lord, the *mayor* of London comes to greet you.
Shakespeare's Rich. III.
When the king once heard it; out of anger,
He sent command to the lord *mayor* straight
To stop the rumour. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
The *mayor* of this town locked up the gates of the city.
Knolly's Hist. of the Turks.
You'dst thou not rather chuse a small renown,
To be the *mayor* of some poor, paltry town. *Dryden.*
MAYORALTY. *n. f.* [from *mayor*.] The office of a mayor.
It is incorporated with a *mayoralty*, and nameth burgesses
to the parliament. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
There was a sharp prosecution against Sir William Capel,
for misgovernment in his *mayoralty*. *Bacon's Henry VI.*
MAYOR-ESS. *n. f.* [from *mayor*.] The wife of the mayor.
MA'ZARD.

MEA

- MA'ZARD.** *n. f.* [*maichaire*, French.] A jaw. *Hammer.*
Now my lady Worm's chapleis, and knockt about the
mazard with a sexton's spade. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
Where thou might'st stiekle without hazard
Of outrage to thy hide and *mazard*. *Hudibras, p. i.*
MAZE. *n. f.* [*missen*, Dutch, to mistake; *maze*, a whirlpool,
Skinner.]
1. A labyrinth; a place of perplexity and winding passages.
He, like a copious river, pour'd his song
O'er all the *mazes* of enchanted ground. *Thomson.*
2. Confusion of thought; uncertainty; perplexity.
He left in himself nothing but a *maze* of longing, and a
dungeon of sorrow. *Sidney, b. ii.*
While they study how to bring to pass that religion may
seem but a matter made, they lose themselves in the very
maze of their own discourses, as if reason did even purposely
forake them, who of purpose forake God, the author
thereof. *Hooker, b. v.*
I have thrust myself into this *maze*,
Haply to wive and thrive as best I may. *Shakespeare.*
To **MAZE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To bewilder; to confuse.
Much was I *maz'd* to see this monster kind,
In hundred forms to change his fearful hue. *Spenser.*
MA'ZY. *adj.* [from *maze*.] Perplexed; confused.
The Laphiaz to chariots add the state
Of bits and bridles, taught the steed to bound,
To run the ring, and trace the *mazy* round. *Dryden.*
MA'ZER. *n. f.* [*maiser*, Dutch, a knot of maple.] A maple
cup.
Then, lo! Perigot, the pledge which I plight,
A *mazer* ywrought of the maple ware,
Wherein is enchafted many a fair fight
Of bears and tygers that make fierce war. *Spenser's Poet.*
Virgil observes, like Theocritus, a just decorum, both of
the subject and the persons, as particularly in the third pasto-
ral, where one of his shepherds describes a bowl, or *mazer*,
curiously carved. *Dryden's Virgil.*
M. D. *Medicine doctor*, doctor of physick.
Me,
1. The oblique case of *I*.
Me, only *me*, the hand of fortune bore,
Unblest to tread an interdicted shore. *Pope's Odyssey.*
For *me* the fates severely kind, ordain
A cool suspence. *Pope.*
2. *Me* is sometimes a kind of ludicrous expletive.
He thrusts *me* himself into the company of three or four
gentlemanlike dogs, under the duke's table. *Shakespeare.*
He presently, as greatness knows itself,
Steps *me* a little higher than his vow
Made to my father, while his blood was poor. *Shakespeare.*
I, having been acquainted with the smell before, knew it
was Crab, and goes *me* to the fellow that whips the dogs.
Shakespeare. Two Gentlemen of Verona.
I followed *me* close, came in foot and hand, and, with a
thought, seven of the eleven I paid. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
3. It is sometimes used ungrammatically for *I*; as, *methinks*.
Me rather had, my heart might feel your love,
Than my unpleas'd eye see your courtesy. *Shakespeare.*
MEACOCK. *n. f.* [*mes cog*, *Skinner*.] An uxorious or efemi-
nate man.
MEACOCK. *adj.* Tame; timorous; cowardly.
'Tis a world to see,
How tame, when men and women are alone,
A *meacock* wretch can make the curtest shrew. *Shakespeare.*
MEAD. *n. f.* [*maeo*, Saxon; *maethe*, Dutch; *meth*, German;
bydromeli, Lat.] A kind of drink made of water and honey.
Though not so solutive a drink as *mead*, yet it will be more
grateful to the stomach. *Bacon.*
He sneers his over-burden'd sheep;
Or *mead* for cooling drink prepares,
Of virgin honey in the jars. *Dryden.*
MEAD. *n. f.* [*maeo*, Sax.] Ground somewhat watery, not
MEADOW. *n. f.* plowed, but covered with grass and flowers.
Where al thing in common do rest,
Come feed with the pasture and *mead*,
Yet what doth it stand you in need?
A band select from forage drives
A herd of beeves, fair oxen, and fair kine,
From a fat *meadow* ground. *Milten's Par. Lost, b. x.*
Paints her, 'tis true, with the same hand which spreads,
Like glorious colours, through the flow'ry *meads*,
When lavish nature with her best attire
Cloaths the gay spring, the season of desire.
Yet ere to-morrow's sun shall show his head,
The dewy paths of *meadows* will show his head,
For crowns and chaplets to adorn thy bed. *Dryden.*
MEADOW-SAFFRON. *n. f.* [*calchicum*, Lat.] A plant.
The *meadow-saffron* hath a flower consisting of one leaf,
shaped like a lily, rising in form of a small tube, and is gra-
dually widened into six segments: it has likewise a solid, bul-
bous root, covered with a membranous skin. *Miller.*
MEADOW-SWEET. *n. f.* [*ulmaria*, Lat.] A plant.

MEA

- The *meadow-sweet* hath a flower composed of several leaves
placed in a circular order, and expanding in form of a rose,
out of whose empaiement rises the pointal, which becomes a
fruit composed of many little membranous crooked huffs ga-
thered into an head, each of which generally contains one
seed. *Miller.*
MEAGER. *adj.* [*maigre*, French; *macer*, Latin.]
1. Lean; wanting flesh; starven.
Thou art to lean and *meagre* waxen late,
That scarce thy legs uphold thy feeble gate. *Hublerd.*
Now will the canker forrow eat my bud,
And chafe the native beauty from his cheek,
And he will look as hollow as a ghost,
As dim and *meagre* as an ague's fit. *Shakespeare. King John.*
Meager were his looks,
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones. *Shakespeare.*
Whatsoever their neighbour gets, they lose, and the
very bread that one eats makes t'other *meager*. *L'Estrange.*
The reeking entrails
He to his *meagre* maffiffs made a prey.
Fierce famine with her *meagre* face,
And fevers of the fiery race,
In swarms th' offending wretch surround,
All brooding on the blasted ground:
And limping death, lash'd on by fate,
Comes up to shorten half our date. *Dryden.*
2. Poor; hungry.
Canaan's happy land, when worn with toil,
Requir'd a Sabbath year to mend the *meagre* soil. *Dryden.*
To **MEAGER.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To make lean.
It cannot be, that I should be so shamefully betrayed, and
as a man *meagered* with long watching and painful labour,
laid himself down to sleep. *Knolly's Hist. of the Turks.*
MEAGERNESS. *n. f.* [from *meager*.]
1. Leanness; want of flesh.
2. Scantness; bareness.
Poynings, the better to make compensation of the *meager-*
ness of his service in the wars by acts of peace, called a par-
liament. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
MEAK. *n. f.* A hook with a long handle.
A *meake* for the pease, and to swing up the brake. *Taff.*
MEAL. *n. f.* [*male*, Saxon, repast or portion.]
1. The act of eating at a certain time.
Boaz said unto her at *meal* time, Come eat, and dip thy
morfel. *Ruth ii. 14.*
The quantity of aliment necessary to keep the animal in a
due state of vigour, ought to be divided into *meals* at proper
intervals. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
2. A repast.
What strange fish
Hath made his *meal* on thee? *Shakespeare. Tempest.*
Give them great *meals* of beef, and iron and steel, they
will eat like wolves, and fight like devils. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
They made *me* a miser's feast of happiness,
And could not furnish out another *meal*. *Dryden.*
3. A part; a fragment.
That yearly rent is still paid into the hanaper, even as the
former casualty itself was wont to be, in parcel *meals*, brought
in, and answered there. *Bacon.*
4. [*Mailege*, Saxon; *meel*, Dutch; *mahlen*, to grind, Ger-
man.] The flower or edible part of corn.
In the bolting and sifting of near fourteen years of such
power and favour, all that came out could not be expected
to be pure and fine *meal*, but must have a mixture of padar
and bran in this lower age of human fragility. *Watson.*
An old weazel conveys himself into a *meal*-tub for the
mice to come to her, since she could not go to them.
L'Estrange's Fables.
To **MEAL.** *v. a.* [*meler*, French.] To sprinkle; to mingle.
Were he *meal'd*
With that which he corrects, then were he tyrannous.
Shakespeare's Meas. for Measure.
ME'ALMAN. *n. f.* [*meal* and *man*.] One that deals in meal.
ME'ALY. *adj.* [from *meal*.]
1. Having the taste or soft insipidity of meal; having the qua-
lities of meal.
The *mealy* parts of plants dissolved in water make too vis-
cid an aliment. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
2. Besprinkled, as with meal.
With four wings, as all farinaceous and *mealy*-winged ani-
mals, as butterflies and moths. *Bacon's Vulgar Errors.*
Like a gay insect, in his summer shine,
The sop light fluttering spreads his *mealy* wings. *Thomson.*
MEALY-MOUTHED. *adj.* [imagined by *Skinner* to be corrupt-
ed from *mild-mouthed* or *mellow-mouthed*: but perhaps from the
fore mouths of animals, that, when they are so able to com-
municate their grain, must be fed with meal.] Soft mouthed;
unable to speak freely.
She was a fool to be *mealy-mouthed* where nature speaks so
plain. *L'Estrange.*
MEALY-MOUTHEDNESS. *n. f.* [from the adjective.] Bathful-
ness; restraint of speech.

MEAN